Cancellation of pilots' licence test

2799. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DGCA has cancelled its pilots' licence test as the papers were leaked; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Airworthiness of private planes and helicopters

2800. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising number of helicopter crashes in the country claiming many victims;

(b) whether the DGCA has investigated the causes of the crashes and if so, what are the findings of such enquiries; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the DGCA to check on the airworthiness of privately owned planes and helicopters in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investigation of 13 out of 15 accidents from 2002 to 2004 have been completed. The major reasons as brought out in the reports are improper decision of the pilots, poor crew co-ordination, mechanical/ technical problems, poor maintenance, lack of experience and weather disturbances.

(c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by all air operators, including private operators by way of safety audits. Besides, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA. DGCA also